

Message Text

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47

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EUR-12 /037 W

----- 121853

R 301154Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4153

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3875

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CDES LA

SUBJECT: STATUS OF CHARLES DEAN

REFS: A. CANBERRA 3488

B. VIENTIANE 3831

1. EMBASSY WAS AWARE OF REPORT FROM QTE SENSITIVE BRITISH SOURCE END QTE (REF A, PARA 2) AT TIME REF B WAS DRAFTED. SOURCE IS BRITISH MILITARY ATTACHE, WHO WAS PUT IN TOUCH BY HIS BARBER WITH A LAO WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN THE TWO CAUCASIANS AND WHO IS SUPPOSEDLY TO REVISIT SAM NEUA THIS WEEKEND, RETURNING JUNE 2 OR 3. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE BROUGHT THIS APPROACH TO OUR ATTENTION.

2. SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR MISSING-IN-ACTION MATTERS DISCUSSED APPROACH WITH BRITISH MILITARY ATTACHE MAY 28. THE CLAIMS MADE BY THE ULTIMATE LAO SOURCE ARE HIGHLY IMPLAUSIBLE (ALTHOUGH BRITISH MILITARY ATTACHE THINKS HE MIGHT BE A PATHET LAO COURIER), AND FROM PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND MODUS OPERANDI HE IS PROBABLY A LOCAL CONFIDENCE MAN NAMED SUTHI WHO HAS ATTEMPTED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO EXTORT MONEY FROM RELATIVES OF MIA'S OR
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OTHERS INTERESTED IN THEIR FATE. THE ONLY DEVIATION FROM

STANDARD PROCEDURE IS THAT IN THIS INITIAL APPROACH TO BRITISH ATTACHE HE DID NOT ASK FOR TRAVEL MONEY OR FOR A CAMERA TO "DOCUMENT" HIS FINDINGS.

3. BRITISH ATTACHE DID NOT ASK FOR PHOTOS OF DEAN/SHARMAN AND WE WOULD NOT IN ANY EVENT PROVIDE THEM WITHOUT KNOWING MORE ABOUT SOURCE; IF IT IS SUTHI, THE PHOTOS WOULD PROBABLY FIND THEIR WAY BACK TO US AS PART OF AN APPROACH FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE.

4. WE DID NOT REPORT THE APPROACH TO ADDRESSEES FOR REASONS STATED PARA 2 ABOVE, AND ALSO OF COURSE BECAUSE WE DID NOT WISH TO RAISE FALSE HOPES IN EITHER FAMILY. HOWEVER, BRITISH ATTACHE WILL INFORM US OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

5. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT NOT RPT NOT INFORM DEAN FAMILY AT THIS TIME OF APPROACH TO BRITISH ATTACHE.
CHAPMAN

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